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PATENT DEPARTMENT

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CONFIRMATION NO.: 8016

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Beuthan et al.

SERIAL NO.:

09/775,070

GROUP ART UNIT: 3737

FILED:

February 1, 2001

EXAMINER: William C. Jung

TITLE: "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ARTHRITIS DIAGNOSIS"
RESPONSE TO THE MARCH 23, 2005 OFFICE ACTION

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(4) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	(6) RATE	(7) ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	*39	MINUS	**39	X	() X 25.00 () X 50.00	
INDEP. CLAIMS	*3	MINUS	3	X	() X 100.00 () X 200.00	
Application amended to contain any multiple dependent claims not previously paid for.				() YES () NO	() \$180.00 () \$360.00 ONE TIME	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$0.00

* If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 4, write "0" in Column 5.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20 write "20" in this space.

☐ Applicants petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend this time for response to the Office Action dated _____ for _____ months so that the period for response is extended to _____. A check in the amount of \$_____ is attached to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to deposit account No. 501519. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ is attached.

☐ A check for \$_____ accompanying IDS under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is attached

☐ A check for \$_____ and Petition for Consideration of IDS under 37 CFR 1.97(d) is attached.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

When phoning re this application, please call (312) 258-5500.

SCHIFF, HARDIN LLP (Customer Number: 26574)

Patent Department

BY Steven H. Noll (28,982)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on June 22, 2005

Steven H. Noll

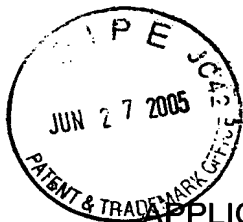
NAME OF APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY

Steven H. Noll

SIGNATURE

June 22, 2005

DATE



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE TO THE MARCH 23, 2005 OFFICE ACTION

APPLICANTS: Beuthan et al. **CONFIRMATION NO.:** 8016
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S I R:

Applicants and their counsel have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated March 23, 2005, but believe the claims as originally filed are patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following arguments in support of patentability is therefore respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The subject matter disclosed and claimed in the present application concerns a method and an apparatus for determining a circumference of a digit joint, such as a finger, for evaluating the progress of arthritis. In the inventive method and apparatus, the joint is irradiated with a light source and a two-dimensional projection image from the light attenuated by the joint is recorded, using a camera. The diameter of the joint is then determined from this projection image using an automatic edge detection method, and the circumference of the joint is then calculated from the diameter.